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Dear Friend. Schenectady May 30 1819.

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

I received yours of the 15, much gratified that after your long silence, you had again taken up your pen— I was very happy to learn, that some of the Specimens I sent you, were interesting: (Specially when I thought that none of them would be new to you— The plant which you Suppose to be a new Species, I recollect distinctly. I found it in August last, in a pond in the vicinity of this place; the water about 4 or 5 feet deep. I did not examine it particularly at the time, nor have I since. I found it in Company with the Nuphars, which, however at that time, were nearly out of flower. The flower lies on the Surface of the water & the Stem is nearly erect. This is all that I recollect at present, concerning this plant. I shall examine it more particularly this Season & Communicate the information to you immediately. If you think you have sufficient information on the Subject, you are at liberty to use it as your discretion shall dictate. The pond is generally known by the name of Saunder's Lake, about a mile north west of the compact part of the City— During this month I have collected about 90 different Species, 50 of which, I am acquainted with about 20. of which, I can make nothing of. The fact is that

Given by A. M. VAIL, from the J. J. Bronnell Collection

I am so deficient in books, that it is impossible for me to study Botany to advantage. Eatons Manual, on some accounts, is very imperfect & even faulty I think is deficient; their Specific Characters I think are not sufficiently distinct. The fault may be with me but as we are a set of selfish beings, we are very apt to attribute it to others. I shall send such Specimens as I think will be interesting to you from time to time. You speak of the Cryptogamia & grasses. I must confess I am afraid of them — I have collected a few this month but am not able to say what they are. I shall be in New York about the 1st of August & then I shall expect you to drill me on these Classes — Have you any Author on Fishes? If you have, I would thank you much for the loan of it for a short time. I think there are some there, the description of which would be interesting. If I can see any work on the Subject, by which, I can ascertain that they are not described, I shall attempt it. I have collected 2 or 3 insects-all of which I suppose you must have — I have also kept a Meteorological Table for May, which if you care for, I can send you a Copy. — — —

Torrey, I was surprized when you asked me whether I would accept of some European Specimens You might have known, what my answer would

have been. I now say once for all all Specimens whether European, Asiatic, American or African will be acceptable to me. I beseech you never ask that question again. John will have an opportunity this week. if you have any thing to send me, give it to him. You will not be offended at my ~~frequent~~ harrassing you so repeatedly for Specimens when you consider, that I and working here entirely alone & consequently my labors as yet cannot amount to much. The Troy Lyceum, have published a flaming Botanical notice, that they intend publishing a floral Calender in the ensuing fall; they call upon all classes & description of men to assist in this great work. I fear its effects will be that of the mountain in Labour. C. S. Raffinesque Esq must cut a prodigious Swell. I have frequently thought that a Correct complete & Scientific work on the Botany of the United States, was still a desideratum. But ~~he no doubt will shortly~~ will accomplish this great work. I Peixotto dead or alive has probably taken an Aerial excursion as I have not heard of him since the hurricane in august last. when he returns I would thank you to remember me to him. Tell Pete. Wendover that Dur remains as usual.

write soon.

I remain your Sincere friend

Louis C. Beck.

Dr John Torrey.

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Schenck
May 21

1842

Dr John Torrey

Greenwich

New York

J. Peck
May 30th 1842